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Resolve, Creating the Advisory Committee on Maine's Health Insurance Exchange

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, to be eligible for health insurance exchange funding, the Federal Government requires the states to make substantial progress in the following core areas: background research; stakeholder consultation; legislative and regulatory action; governance; program integration; exchange information technology systems; financial management; oversight and program integrity; health insurance market reforms; providing assistance to individuals and small businesses, coverage appeals and complaints; and business operation; and

Whereas, the deadlines for applying for the next round of federal funding are September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2011; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1 Advisory Committee on Maine's Health Insurance Exchange established.

Resolved: That the Advisory Committee on Maine's Health Insurance Exchange, referred to in this resolve as "the advisory committee," is established to develop and provide recommendations, including suggested enabling legislation, to the Governor and the Legislature for a health insurance exchange that addresses the core areas specified by the Federal Government and consider the views of the health care industry and other stakeholders; and be it further

Sec. 2 Membership of the advisory committee. Resolved: That the advisory committee consists of no more than 9 members appointed by the Governor, after consultation with the chairs and lead minority members of the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services. The Governor shall appoint members that represent the diverse interests of stakeholders related to the establishment of a health insurance exchange. The members must include representatives of key constituencies, including, but not limited to, health care providers, insurers, health insurance producers, consumers, employers with more than 50 employees, employers with 50 or fewer employees and the Board of Trustees of Dirigo Health. Prior to making appointments to the advisory committee, the Governor shall seek nominations from statewide associations representing the interests of stakeholders identified in this section and other entities as appropriate; and be it further

Sec. 3 Chair. Resolved: That the Governor shall appoint a chair from among the members of the advisory committee; and be it further

Sec. 4 Duties of the advisory committee. Resolved: That the advisory committee shall:

1. Review and consider the recommendations issued by the 124th Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Health Care Reform with respect to a health insurance exchange;

2. Consider the rules issued by the Federal Government subsequent to the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and their impact on the creation and operations of a health insurance exchange;

3. In an effort to create efficiencies, review the work products of other states to consider what elements of their health insurance exchange activities might be used in this State;

4. Establish technical committees or seek the advice of technical experts when necessary to execute the duties included in this resolve; and

5. Seek input from and report regularly to legislative leadership, the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services and the Governor's office throughout the advisory committee's deliberations; and be it further

Sec. 5 Meetings. Resolved: That meetings of the advisory committee must be conducted in public in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, chapter 13. The advisory committee shall provide notice of its meetings to the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services; and be it further

Sec. 6 Consultation with Legislature. Resolved: That the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services is authorized to hold 3 meetings before the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature for the purpose of consulting with the advisory committee; and be it further

Sec. 7 Staffing. Resolved: That Dirigo Health shall provide staffing services to the advisory committee. As necessary, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance; the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology; the Department of Health and Human Services; and the State Coordinator for Health Information Technology shall also provide staffing assistance to the advisory committee; and be it further

Sec. 8 Report. Resolved: That the advisory committee shall submit a report, including its recommendations and suggested legislation, to the Governor and the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services no later than September 1, 2011.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.